| Acquisition Category | Reason for ACAT Designation | Decision Authority |
|---|---|---|
| ACAT I | • MDAP (10 USC 2430, reference (f)))<br>  o Dollar value: estimated by the USD(AT&L) to require an eventual total expenditure for research, development, test and evaluation of more than $365 million in fiscal year (FY) 2000 constant dollars or, for procurement, of more than $2.190 billion in FY 2000 constant dollars<br>  o Special interest<br>• MDA designation | ACAT ID: USD(AT&L)<br>ACAT IC: Head of the DoD Component or, if delegated, the DoD Component Acquisition Executive (CAE) |
| ACAT IA | • MAIS: estimated to require program costs in any single year in excess of $32 million in fiscal year (FY) 2000 constant dollars, total program costs in excess of $126 million in FY 2000 constant dollars, or total life-cycle costs in excess of $378 million in FY 2000 constant dollars<br>• MDA designation | ACAT IAM: ASD(C3I)/DoD CIO<br>ACAT IAC: ASD(C3I)/DoD CIO-delegated to CAE or DoD Component CIO |
| ACAT II | • Do not meet criteria for ACAT I<br>• Major system: estimated by the DoD Component Head to require an eventual total expenditure for RDT&E of more than $140 million in FY 2000 constant dollars, or for procurement of more than $660 million in FY 2000 constant dollars (10 USC 2302d)<br>• MDA designation | DoD CAE or the individual designated by the CAE |
| ACAT III | • Do not meet criteria for ACAT II or above<br>• Less-than a MAIS program | Designated by the DoD CAE at the lowest level appropriate |

Notes:
1. In some cases, an ACAT IA program, as defined above, also meets the definition of an MDAP. The USD(AT&L) and the ASD(C3I)/DoD CIO shall decide who will be the MDA for such AIS programs. Regardless of who is the MDA, the statutory requirements that apply to MDAPs shall apply to such AIS programs.
2. An Automated Information System (AIS) program is an acquisition program that acquires IT, except IT that involves equipment that is an integral part of a weapon or weapons system, or is an acquisition of services program. Because of the dollar values of MAIS programs, no AIS programs are ACAT II.
3. The ASD(C3I)/DoD CIO shall designate programs as ACAT IAM or ACAT IAC.